ASHANTEE.

King Koffee's Reply to the British Military Ultimatum.

HIS MISSIONARY MESSENGER.

Bev. Mr. Kuhne--His Sudden Appearance. Companions and Commission.

INTERVIEWED FOR THE HERALD.

Description of King Koffee---His Palace, Army and System of Rule.

HIS THREE HUNDRED WIVES.

Wolselev's Route---Onward for Coomassie.

CAMP AT PRAHSU, ON THE BANKS OF THE PRAH, ASSIN LAND, West Airica, Jan. 15, 1874. The answer to Sir Garnet's third ultimatum has been received from Coomassie. It speaks of the King's desire for peace with the white men. The envoy who brought it and his suite of fifteen men were halted at Assaman. Yesterday, also, the apparition of a pale faced captive-a shadow of a man suffering from pulmonary consumption, one who had lingered in compulsory detention at the capital of Ashantee since the 12th of June, 1869startled the entire camp. This sick captive is the Rev. Mr. Kunne, of the Basie mission, a zealous missionary, a native of Neuchatel, who, after five years' residence at Coomassie, was suddenly peritted to leave Ashantee and proceed to the camp

of Sir Garnet Wolseley. PREV. MR. KUHNE'S REPORT—THE KING AND HIS DYNASTY.

The poor man is in such a wretched state of bad health that I could not find it in my heart to subect him to a prolonged interview, but in the following remarks you will find interwoven such inormation of interest as I have been able to

The King of Ashantee is a young man thirtyfive or thirty-six years old, strongly pitted with traces of smallpox, possessing some natural ability, but which has been warped by the assiduous and constant flattery of his parasitical and trembling subjects. The adulatory cries of the town crier of the capital are more than sufficient to transform any man, white or black, into a vain. Incarnate despot. They are generally in the strain of "O King, thou art the king above all kings! Thou art great! Thou art mighty! Thou art strong! Thou hast done enough! The princes of The earth bow down to thee, and humble themmelves in the dust before thy stool!
Who is like unto the King of all the Ashantees?" King Koffee, though arrogant and vain and cruel beyond measure, has the eye of King, which means that It is the eye of one possessing unlimited power over life and death. So little does he value human life that he frequently Bays, "By the slaughter of one hundred shall I be able to produce a thousand." The King is placed on the stool by the united voice of the chiefs, but immediately he is seated in him becomes vested the supreme power over life and death. If the council of chiess and captains propose that he shall engage in war, he dare not absolutely refuse to make war lest some ask him, with a sneer, if he is afraid, when, if he replies in the affirmative, the monarch's prestige departs from him. When the chiels propose that he shall make peace, after engaging in a war which turns out to be ruinous be ay then proclaim that peace shall be declared, without incurring disrespect. A great power in Ashantee is the King's mother, who often, with her advice, has plunged Ashantee into war or hastened

THE ROYAL RESIDENCE. The King's palace is a large hut, after the native style of architecture, and adjoining it is another residence, the two-storled stone house constructed for him by Dupins, a traveller who visited Ashantee about 1820. The missionaries have lately constructed another house for him 44 feet long. 25 feet wide and two stories high, of brick, which they themselves manufactured for the King.

BRIGHAM YOUNG BEATEN AS A POLYGAMIST. The King has about 300 wives, though they do not all live in the palace, but are scattered among the suburban crooms, or villages. It is death for a man to look at the temale possessions of the monarch. When any of the harem ventures out the criers hasten ahead to clear the way and warn the citizens of the advance of the fatal procession with cries of "Ecow! ecow! eh! eh! eh!! the first two words being drawn out like our "halloo ! while the three last are delivered in quick succes mon and in higher tones. As they approach the their faces with their hands, so they may not be thought to take any advantage of the confidence of the King in thus exposing his human treasures to the light of day.

WEALTH. Bowdich's graphic descriptions of the stately processions and the wealth or barbaric gold dispensed at Coomassie on grand occasions turn out be correct. This wealth principally consists of golden heirlooms, ornaments of massy gold, which generation after generation treasured in secret places. If a hostile army approached the capital this gold would be hidden, and the death of all glaves would be almost certain, lest they might betray the localities where the treasure was con-

CITY POPULATION.

The permanent population of Coomassic is estimated at 10,000 souls-men, women and children. THE ARMY.

At the beginning of the war the army of Ashantee mustered 48,000. This force was collected from the combination of nations known as Ashan. tee and the tributary countries adjoining the kingdom, which, according to all accounts, extend far into the interior, one of the allied chiefs having volunteered from the borders of the Sahara Desert. The army that returned to Coomassie lately under the famous Amonguatiah numbered only 28,000, the large number of 20,000 having failen victims to disease. With this sadly reduced army were the remains of 279 officers or chiefs, who had fallen in battle or died of disease, enclosed in so many boxes. This army was re-King, and was thanked and rewarded with pres ents of gold, 100 sheep and forty loads of salt: but there was no ovation paid to it. The reception was sing liarly silent, utterly unlike the indescrib-able triumphal fanfaronade formerly made on such occasions, Then the people dispersed to their croops, their plantations and houses. Fifty-five slaves were slaughtered to the manes of the departed chiefs on the custom day, the 1st of January of this year.

A COUNCIL OF WAR. Amonguatian and the chiefs who have been engaged in battle have sought to dispel depression from the mind of the King by poasting of his performances in the war and declaring to him that there are enough men still left to defend the capital from any attack. It appears that the British letter created astonishment, alarm and unmittgated concempt in the mind of the King. The first leeling was caused by the stern purpose which his mplied; alarm, by the amount of compen sation to be exacted for the miury done to the Assins and Fantees, and unmitigated contempt at the long explanation at which the General had seen fit to enter into conceruing the cause which led to the death of one of his envoy's suite. It is known the unhappy Ashantee Ambassador committed saicide. It seems that it was proposed to send a white man to Coomassie with Sir

diarnet's terms to the King, and that this man ven-

tured a remark to the effect that if any white man assie the King would kill him; where upon the Envoy, who was his brother, censured him for his unjust suspicion, and promised to re-port him to His Majesty. Fully satisfied of the extent of the King's anger on hearing the calumny, he put an end to his own life.

When the English General's letter had been read the chiefs, who composed the council, began to extel themselves, and the tributary King of Adapsi sprung to his feet and shouted, "Behold, I am the King of the Adansis. Who can cross my

country without my permission?" Attitowah got up and said, "Lo! I am strong, my warriors are brave and none can overcome me." But Amonquatiah, who had just returned from the war, said, "He who has seen no war cannot COOLING DOWN.

Presently cooler councils and more prudent ad vice prevailed; hence the letter which Sir Garnet Wolseley received the day before yesterday treating of peace. The King's first intention after his Gene rai's return to Coomassie was to permit his war-riors a week's rest and occupy the Adansi hills, and

when the white people should appear to attack them with vigor. If he were successful in driving the English back he would slaughter every priso ner, white or black, he had taken in this war if he were defeated he intended to await at Coomassie the arrival of his foe, reserving his prisoners to plead for peace for him.

THE GUN "WHICH SHOOTS ALL DAY." The reputation of the Gatling is now spread throughout Ashantee. "It is a terrible gun, which shoots all day. Nothing could stand before it; the water of the Prah ran back affrighted." effect of this, combined with many other things, has been to induce the King and his Council to de liberate and reflect on the possibility of peace.

HOW THE MISSIONARY WAS CAPTURED. Of himself Mr. Kuhne said he had been captured on the 12th of June, 1869, by the General Addo Buffo; that a valuation of £6,000 sterling was placed by his captor on Mr. Kuhne, Mr. Ramseyer and wife and M. Bonat, a French trader, which was finally reduced to £1,000. He and his brothers were treated as captives who might probably be of value eventually or not. They were granted a sufficient amount for subsistence, but nothing What money was despatched to them was retained by the King, who doled out to them the sum of \$4 50 per period of forty days for the subhave preached a few times on the streets to the Ashantees of the capital, but the King never gave permission to his subjects to become converts. The populace of Ashantee treated them at first with contumely, but when the King gave permis sion to them to punish insolence with the whip some more consideration was shown to them. It was amusing the way in which some of the people endeavored to exempt themselves from being sub ject to the privilege granted to the captives by "Know ye what ye do? I am the King's shirtwasher! I wash the King's robes! I wash the King's feet !" While another would venture to cry out, "My sister is one of the King"

THE FANTER PRISONERS were exceedingly insolent to the white captives. They were pleased to utterly disbelieve that the English General would ever approach Coomassie and omitted no pains to imbue the Ashantees with that idea. Of the Fantees Mr. Kuhne and his mis sionary brethren entertain the very lowest opinion

A MESSAGE TO THE CROWN. On the 18th of October Mr. Kuhne wrote to the King requesting leave to return, as he was suffering from a disease which, unless he was able to obtain good, nourishing food, must soon kill him Last Friday night his second request was granted and he left Coomassie at once by torchlight, and arrived in Kassi, a place situate about three miles from the capital. During Saturday he travelled for eight hours, and reached Kankassi. On Spn day he made a short march to Quiza, on the other side of the Adansi hills.

On Monday he travelled to Assaman, a village occupied by the British advance, and by ten A. M on Tuesday he reached this camp, a subject of compassion to all.

Mr. Kunne's opinion is that the King will not fight; that his fears have been so worked upon by the reports of his chiefs, who have exag gerated the power of the white men and their guns, that he has no combativeness left in him. He does not suppose either that King Koffee would perform the harikari upon himself, as his illustrious prototype did in Abyssinia, or that he has the moral courage to do anything uncommon. The flow of spirits which caused him to dance on the streets of Coomassie before his subjects when he heard that his army had arrived at Donquah, in the carry part of the war, and prompted him to order the remorseless butchery of the white men on the coast, has evapo rated and left him like one who has just passed object of contemptuous pity.

THE BRITISH ADVANCE IN A STRONG POSITION. As the advance of the British army, under the impetuous Russell, has already scaled the Adaps hills and made good its position at Quiza, no one can conceive the possibility of defence left to the Ashantee King. The very fastnesses he boasted of-the frontier of his kingdom-have been unlocked, and between Quiza and Coomassic is but twelve hours' march. From which we may accept it as a fact that there is no fighting spirit left in the King of Ashantee and that the British campaign of '73-'74 is destined to end in a peaceful parade at Coomassie. Sir Garnet Wolse-ley has sent his fourth letter to the King, and en-trusted it to Captain Buller, Chief of the Intelligence Department, who will deliver it to the Envoy ho, with his suite of fifteen men, is awaiting it at Assaman. It is rather disheartening that when one has dared the fatigues and the climatic dan gers of Africa to be told that neace will be made It is more disheartening for an expedition which numbers so many Europeans to have to go through the form of marching to Coomassie only to sign a peace-such a peace as has been made already too frequently. It must be annoving to Great Britain, after such an expense-after cherishing the delusion that now she had the opportunity to crush the insolent Power which has insulted her representatives during the past century-to be told she shall not have the power to punish or avenge her wrongs; but she shall have her expenditures, the losses of life she has incurred, the sickness and fever which her sons have endured all for nothing.

THE ARMY MUST GO TO COOMASSIE. That is of course certain; a score of valuable lives may be lest on the journey, half a million of pounds sterling will be added to the expenditure but England's honor demands that her army shall enter Coomassie and go through the form of taking possession. Hostages will be demanded, and probably a much larger number of ounces of gold than the King can ever pay will be imposed as a fine, and the army will return to re-embark for home, having accomplished absolutely nothing, for in ten years or so the Ashantees will reinvade protectorate, and the same anger and impotent wrath will be roused just as fruitlessly as before. The desire of the King is for peace. Both the answer to Sir Garnet's letter and the felease of the missionary confirm it. The missionary says that the Ashantees have lost so many chiefs that they have become disheartened. They have not lost so many in skirmishes, but by sick ness. The warriors are returning to their villages, and so satisfied is the King with the result of his let ter that he makes no effort to keep them together. There is only one hope remaining, after this probably tame ending of the expedition, that as the honor of England demands that the troops shall enter Coomassie this event may not be accepted by the Asaantees as a sign of amity. The King may be very willing to declare his readiness to sign a treaty, to send any number of hostages to Cape Coast Castle, to pay any reasonable sum as an indemnity to the Assins and Fantees for the losses they have sustained; but will he be willing to allow an invading army to occupy his capital and dictate terms of peace to him from an apartment in his own palace? That he will fear treachery on the part of the white men, some deep scheme of revenge, some bloody massacre, some wholesale spoliation, is the only hope left to the English that they will not be permitted to enter Coomassie bloodlessly or without some opportunity of indicting a punishment on the

savages, that it may become a tradition among them of what may be expected should they ven ture to attack any territory under the protection of white men again. It is decided that the white troops shall not move from here before the 23d of this month, because of the non-arrival of sufficient stores. The Second West Indians left here tast night for Assaman. Colonel Wood's regiment left this morning, taking with it provisions for six

Sir Garnet Wolseley has just informed me per-sonally that we shall move on the 23d to occupy Assaman; that on the 24th we shall reach Acros froom; on the 25th, Quiza, or Fumannah, at which we may probably stay until the 29th, and that by the 31st we shall probably be in Coo

THE WORK OF CONGRESS.

Three Months of the Session and the Results-The Various Matters of Busi. ness Under Way-The Proposed Retrenchments.The Indians, the Army. the Navy, the Civil Service-The Postal Telegraph - Cheap Transportation -The Currency and Sanking Questions-A General Review.

WASHINGTON, Peb. 27, 1874. We are within one day of the end of the third month of the session, and, from a superficial examination of the work done, it will require at least six months more to finish the work on hand. The House has passed several of the regular appropriation bills, the Senate has passed one-the Navy bill-and both houses have passed large numbers of special, private and local bills of no general importance; but upon the great quesons of the currency, the national banking system, taxation and cheap transportation there are no visible results. Even upon the principal appropriation bills we have only the schedules of the committees, and they are more likely to be enlarged than reduced in their final modifications between the two houses. Yet an immense quantity of work by the committees of both houses the preparation and shaping of bills and reports upon all the multifarious matters, general, local, special and personal, domestic and foreign, entering into the legislation of Congress, has been performed; for instance, on

THE BANKING AND CURRENCY QUESTIONS. The regular committees of the two houses have been working like beavers since the 1st of December on estimates and bills of various kinds, and a large proportion of the members of both chambers have spent much time and labor in the preparation of bills, reports and speeches, covering every possible theory of banking and currency, and making the whole subject a muddle and entanglement, without head or tail, or beginning or end. Nevertheless, the processes of crystallization are going on, and they point to a settlement on the socalled Four Hundred Million bill, which means the addition of \$46,000,000 to our existing national bank currency. The contractionists appear strong enough to prevent a large inflation. but not strong enough to keep back those \$45,000,000; and this proposition of the \$46,000,000 will probably be the compromise between the extremists on both sides and between the two houses. The providing for

THE INDIANS. The House committee on the subject limits its appropriations to \$4,800,000, which cuts down the estimates of the Interior Department \$2,000,000 and reduces the aggregate cost of the Indian service over \$3,000,000 as compared with the expenditures of the passing fiscal year. Meantime it is understood to be the policy of the administration to gather the outside Indian tribes as fast as prac ticable into the Indian Territory, in view of the ultimate settlement therein at least of all the tripes this side the Rocky Mountains. The scheme. therefore, of white squatters and land speculators to establish a regular Territorial government over the Indian Territory is not in layor with the administration. If such a government were ordered a border war for the extermination of the Indians in the Territory, it is feared, would speedily follow. this session the religious superintendencies will be dispensed with, and that the army officers acting as guards over the Indian reservations will be given a larger authority over them than heretofore. General Sherman and General Sheridan are certainly each of the opinion that the superintendencies are rather a stumbling block than a support to the army in maintaining law and order among the warriors of the reservations

RETRENCHMENTS AND TAXATION. By the advice from the House committees of Ways and Means and on Appropriations, the executive departments reduced their original estimates respectively for the ensuing fiscal year as far as they thought it expedient. The committees aggregate of some \$10,000,000, and ret it is believed that increased taxes to the extent of \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 will be required to keep Secretary Richardson's head above water. The Ways and Means Committee propose to this end a tax on imported still wines of fifty cents a gallon in the cask and \$2 per case in bottles. It is probable, too, that an increased internal revenue tax on whiskey and tobacco will be adopted, with the restoration of a small duty on tea and coffee But there will be no modifications of the tariff or internal revenue taxes this session calculated seriously to affect the republicans in the coming fall elections for the next Congress.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH. The Senate committee on the subject are working industriously on a Postal Telegraph bill, but retrenchment and the necessities of retrenchment, which act as a scarecrow upor every new measure involving an expenditure of money, will doubtless defeat any efforts of the committee to secure even a deliberate consideration of the subject this session. It will go over among the unfinished business to the next session. The same may be said of

CHEAP TRANSPORTATION-THE GRANGERS. The special House committee on the subject are satisfied as to the full power of commerce to regulate the railroads of the country; but they will report that it is inexpedient to legislate upon the subject at this time. This conclusion may satisfy the railroad kings, but it will hardly meet the expectations and demands of the grangers. They are not a political party, but nevertheless one of the guild informs me that they will hold the balance of power in the next Congress.

THE ARMY AND NAVY-ABSURD ECONOMY. Refrenchment in both these important arms of the public defence and protection are carried to the extremity of saving at the spigot to waste at the bunghole. The army is to be reduced and clipped and pruned in every possible way, when the maintenance of peace between the whites and Indians in our far Western States calls rather for an increase than a reduction of our present military force. The hundreds of lives and millions of property destroyed even within the last year or two on the Mexican frontier would have been saved had the secretary of War been able to add even a regiment of mounted troops to the small force scattered along the line of that irontler river of 1,000 miles. And so it is with the navy. From one-third to one-half of the ordinary force of workmen of the yards, of the peace establishment, are to be cut off. Ships are to go to waste for want of repairs; but retrenchment, you know, is the order of the day. The Virginius affair secured the Secretary four extra millions. Otherwise by this time next year we should hardly have been possessed of half a dozen ships (such as they are) fit for active ser-

THE AFFAIRS OF THE DISTRICT-THE INVESTIGATION. The select committee of the two houses apnointed to investigate the alleged abuses and corruptions of Governor Shepherd and his official associates in the administration of the affairs of this District have called upon the Governor to answer a list of hard questions touching his expenditures. In his defence the Governor has notified the committee that he will send in his answer and the vouchers next Monday; but as these papers will make up a budget of some 20,000 pages of foolscap, in contracts, reports, letters, figures and comparative statistics, we shall not have the committee's report, perhaps, till late in the spring.

THE FRANKING SILL NOT DEAD.

The failure of the Franking bill in the House by two votes inflicts the loss upon each of the members on the transmission of their public documents by mall of from \$1,200 to \$1,500 n year; but, as the bill was rejected by only two votes, it will be tried again, and may jet be passed.

LITERATURE.

NEW FRENCH BOOKS.

Octave Fauillet-George Sand-Beaumont Nassy-Count de Remusat-Prince Joseph Lubomirski-F. de Boisgobey-Countess de Mirabeau-H. M. Stanley-Bret Harte.

Paris, Feb. 12, 1874.
There have been few books of interest published in Paris since the new year, for authors generally put out heir strength for the Christmas season, and the months of January and February are slack ones. In March, however, we shall have Victor Hugo's long promised "Ninety-three," and a novel, which, to many, will be more welcome than this revolutionary tale; namely, "Un Mariage dans le monde," by M. Octave Feuillet. M. Peuillet is one of those too lew authors of merit who decline to write for mere money. He composes his novels at leisure, hurrying his pace for no man, and, as a consequence produces only good works. There are no French novels which can compare for light grace of style, simple interest and pol-Pauvre," "Sibvile" and "Monsieur de Camors:" and there is no reason to apprehend that Mariage dans le Monde" will fall short of these justly popular stories. The crowning quality in M. Feuillet is his morality, a quality rare at alf times in French writers of fiction, but almost miraculous in an author who was a court favorite under the Second Empire; indeed, one may say to a writer who passed through imperial drawing rooms without losing his morality, as somebody did to a man who came out from a Communist meeting with his watch still in his pocket :- "O. creature favored by Providence!" able contrast to M. Feuillet is Mme. George Sand, who has begun in the Revue des Deux Mondes a serial, "Ma Sour Jeanne." There is nothing to distinguish this work from others by the same authoress. We find the usual early indications of a grande passion between two French people within the prohibited degrees of affinity, the same imsculate young man, who is learned as a Heidelberg prig and lives in low company because he is too fine a fellow to wear social yokes, and the same depressing young woman of strong mind, who would attend female rights conventions if she were in America, but who, being French, exerts the irrepressible female right of talking nonsense until she sets her lover and the reader vawning. There authoresses, require to be sent to the schoolroom again, like too forward boys, who, having exhausted all the lore of the top class, are put back to the second to restudy what they once learned in a hurry and, consequently, torgot as soon. We have heard all we care to hear about young women imbued with all the sentiments of prosy men; and Mme. George Sand would do well to con over the maxim that governed literature in her earlier days when novelists wrote to amuse the public, not to lecture them. Reserving a fuller notice of "Ma Sœur Jeanne" till the serial is terminated. I pass on to such other of the few recent books that

"MEMOIRES SECRETS DU DIX-NEUVIÈME SIECLE." Under this rather too ambitious title a M. De Beaumont Vassy has collected a number of letters and anecdotes, some of them curious. Others, however, scarcely deserve the honor of figuring in "secret memoirs." Nothing can be less secret, for instance, than the story of the noble French refugee who earned his hving by mixing salads in the houses of English noblemen. Brillat Savarin told the story long ago in his "Physiologie du Goût." Among the really interesting documents may be cited some relating to the French revolutionist, Provence (afterward Louis XVIII), written during his extle in England and stathis opinions about Napoleon; some notes on the Revolution of July. which tell one by what boudoir's intrigues that great event was prepared. The pages respecting the Second Empire comprise only a few anecdotes more scandalous than authentic, and which, a they were already well known, it was unnecessary to repeat. Altogether this book is readable. "LIFE OF LORD HERBERT OF CHERBURY BY COUNT CHARLES DE BEMUSAT,"

M. Thiers' late Foreign Secretary has followed in this life of "the eccentric Lord Herbert" the plan he adopted in his preceding works on Abélara, St. Anselm of Canterbury, and Bacon. He pegins by relating the life of his hero, then analyzes and discusses his doctrines. In his preface I Remusat bewails the growing decline and disrepute of what he calls the "natural religion," expounder in the seventeenth century by means of his treatise, "On Truth," and he is especially shocked to see this "natural religion" so reviled by the Positivists. Even Auguste Comte, the ounder of Positivism, "speaks with much greater harshness of the metaphysical age of humanity than of the theological age that went before it. So says Count Remusat; but I cannot help thinking that his amazement argues want of reflection, for the Positivists are the radicals of philosophy while the metaphysicians are the liberals and the theologians the high tories. Now radicals always than of liberals, whose good sense and moderation they dread. The metaphysicians sought to place Christianity on a solid basis of reason instead of appealing, as the theologians had done, solely to the faith of their hearers, and the Positivists find it easier to abuse the metaphysicians than to rerute

Lord Herbert, of Cherbury, was, according to M. de Remusat, "an honest, disagrecable man, had little of apostolic sanctity in him. His life rather resembles that of Don Quixote or Cyrano de Bergeræ than those of either Plato or St. Augustine. He was a swashbuckling philosopher, with sword always ready to fly out of its scabbard. and lips ablow with oaths. The greater part of an autobiography which he left behind redounds with accounts of numerous duels, interspersed here and there by gallant intrigues. He was English Ambassador in France during a few years of Louis XIII.'s monarchy, and wrote his work "On Truth" at Versailles and Paris, in the intervals of more frivolous business. He takes care to let us know that few of the French ladies in the Court remained insensible to the graces of his person; but, in despite of his loose morals, he asserts that he was impelled to write his treatise of religious philosophy by a loud yet muffled noise which earth could not have rendered and which consequently could have come only from heaven." Englishmen have long ago rated Lord Herbert of Cherbury as an amiably original character, madder than Bolingbroke and ess clever; and it may be doubted whether such a person deserved so erudite a notice as this which the French biographer of Bacon has be-

"I'N NOWADE." BY PRINCE JOSEPH LUBOMIRSKI. Five years ago Prince Lubomirski published a very entertaining volume, in which he recounted his experiences as a "Page of the Em-peror Nicholas;" afterwards he gave us his scenes of Military Late in Russia;" and now we have a novel which excels these two books, excellent as they were, in interest. In "Un Nomade" Prince Lubomirski lays his scenes on the extreme confines of the Russian frontier towards Turkestan, and the chief episodes are enacted at Samarkand, in the ancient palace of Tamerlane, now the residence of the Russian Governor. This novel will certainly give the Prince a prominent rank among French novelists. Not only has he closely studied the localities and the almost savage populations he describes, but he has avoided a fault very common to works of this kind, that of straining to give highly colored pictures of exotic customs and scenery in order to prove that the book is drawn from the life. The cuief character of the story, Martha, the wife of a Russian general, is a curious specimen of ferocious haughtiness and coquetry-very Russian in the sense of the term which Napoleon I. applied to Russians:-"Grattez le Russe et vous trouverez un Tartare." The characters of the Khan of Bokhara and of his worthy Minister, two latter day Mussulmans of decrepit faith and nerveless bonies, are

cleverly contrasted with that of Sagar Hadjir, the rare and generous chieftain of the Turcomans, and of his gentle, pretty wife, Emineh, two Turks of the poetical age of Islam, Prince Lubomirski's book will probably be translated into English, and Americans should read it.

"LE CHEVALIER CASSE-COU," BY M. FORTUNE DE BOISGOBBY.

This is a dashing novel in the true Prench style, tissued with improbabilities, but smart and difficult to lay by when once the first page has been read. After a performance at the Grand Opera in Paris the box openers going their rounds find in a private box a beautiful young roman tring dead, and beside her a surprised, but not trightened child, who speaks a jargon which no Frenchman can understand. How did the woman die—naturally or by a murder? This is a secret which the Chevalier de Casse-Cou takes two volumes to unravel. He was going down a passage when he heard the box openers shout for help, and hastening to the spot he feels stricken with pity for the little foreign child and adopts her. His two volames are spent hunting down the mur-derer of the strange woman, who turns out to have died naturally after all; but before he arrives at this certainty the Chevaller has dragged us breathless and tascinated through all the probable and improbable adventurers of Parisian life. At the end he discovers, to his astonishment, that his adventures have not been so useless as he expected, for his adoption of the child has caused him, by slow, but sure degrees, to become a respectable member of society, instead of the spenathrift and rake he formarly was; and, of course, he is rewarded in the al way by the love of his ward, who grows up to be a beautiful woman and marries him.

"L'ETE DE SAINT MARTIN." BY THE COUNTESS DE MIRABEAU. "L'Eté de Saint Martin" is the name which the French apply to the few days of bright warmth and sunshine which now and then exceptionally gladden the earth at Martinmas; and this novel tells us how a lady, having attained the Martinmas period of life-that is, the forties-became seized with a furious love for a man wholly unworthy of her. The lady's maiden name was Renée de Mutréux. Her birth was highly noble, but she condescendingly overlooked, at the age of twenty, in lavor of a hard-working but prodigiously rich man of mean extraction, M. Fauvel. With this opulent and gifted being-for he is both gifted and affectionate-she loves happily for seven years, and at his death she feels so inconsolable that she could easily have been induced to burn herself over his grave in the Indian Suttee fashion. When her grief has softened she leads an exemplary life of widowhood, doing charity and silently worshipping the memory of her dead husband. But at forty an ignoble fortunehunter comes across her path, woos her for her money and wins her in a gallop. The scene in which Renée, coming to her senses after her folly, recognizes how despicable an individual she has taken for her master are well drawn, and the moral conveyed may be a wholesome one to other ladies of forty who are besieged by insinuating strangers ten years younger than themselves. . I have noticed this book because it is being much read at present; but the subject of it is one which would have been better handled by a male author than by a lady. Ladies make strange havoc of the delicacies when they hold a pen in their hands.

I must conclude by saying that Mr. Henry M. Stanley's "How I Found Livingstone" has been translated into French by Mine. Loreau, and is published with profuse illustrations. The book has of the great explorer, whose wanderings and trials have been so lately familiarized to the world through the column of the HERALD. Bret Harte has also found a French translator in M. Théophile Bentzon, of the Revue des Deux Mondes, and it may he said that the American humorist's very pathetic tales of life in California are as much appreciated in Paris as they are across the Atlantic. But M Rentzon has committed an error in translating the "Condensed Novels." The fun of them can only be understood in English, and by readers thoroughly familiar with the authors whose defects they parody. To a Frenchman "Lothaw" and "No Title" must seem like printed nightmare.

CHARLES DICKENS.

The Author of David Copperfield's Personal Character-Forster's Dickens Not the Live Man. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-

In last Sunday's issue of the HERALD appears an editorial discussing the views of certain critics who question Charles Dickens' sanity on achis strange treatment of his wife. You remark that Mr. Forster has passed over the subject as if too painful to dwell upon, and endeavor attiance and Lord Byron's, Sir Edward Lytton's yet appeared in an English form. and other noted litterateurs' unfortunate marriages. I have carefully read Mr. Forster's life of Dickens, which is all tinted au couleur de rose, but cannot refrain from recalling the many stories have heard about Charles Dickens from my father and Mr. Thackeray, who all three were once Bohemians on the London Morning Herald and Chroni-

There was nothing in Charles Dickens' character to inspire one with any great admiration. He was the beau ideal of the smart, cunning, nervous, enterprising, fearless reporter, of which there are so few in this country. He was born a newspaper man, and inherited the fickieness, love of ostentation, pride of rising to the head of his profession, which the English press so largely encourages. As a reporter he was considered the most artiul and cupning, and for a man of his vivid imagination he had a wide field in the slums of London and the farm houses of the plain, simple folks of the old

The history of Charles Dickens' marriage is

simple enough. He was at that time earning about thirty shillings a week, and met Mrs. Dickens, then a moon-faced, fair-haired, even-tempered, roundwaisted, good-natured, but very commonplace English girl: one of those women the neight of whose ambition is a large family, a little cottage, a new dress, a big bow and a merry Christmas She was an honest, virtuous, simple-minded, slightly romantic woman, whose heart was in her home. Charles Dickens at this time was a young man of a very nervous temperament, with unbounded self-esteem, and who would have made a good husband had he not been successful. It was after the birth of their second child that Dickens good husband had he not been successing. It was after the birth of their second child that Dickens began to realize the importance of doing something to add to his pot au feu. He himself has often described with what fear and trembing—having a sick whe and two crying babes to provide for at home, and an unlimited number of small creditors watching himhow he approached the great, big, yawning editor's box of Chapman & Hail and threw in his first two chapters of "Sketches by Boz." How astonished he was a few days after to see an advertisement requesting "Boz" to call on the editor, and with what joy and trembling he returned home and told his wife how he had been offered \$20 a chapter for his "Sketches." The era of Dickens' "Sketches" constituted the happiest days of Mrs. Charles Dickens. Often has the writer heard how Dickens would read them to his wife and dance wildly round the room. With the close of the "Sketches" began hrs. Pickens' troubles. To better understand the gradual change in Charles Dickens' treatment of his wife it is necessary to analyze the character and training of the so-called commonplace English girl. In this country the women castly shape the hemselves to charles bleachs treatment of his which its necessary to analyze the character and training of the so-called commonplace English girl. In this country the woman easily adapt themselves to their positions in lie. In fact, in this country the woman generally rises superior to the man. Not so, however, with the dull, good-natured, loving English girl. She, from her earliest chidhood, is brought up in a circle whose views are narrow and whose education is extremely limited. The monotony of her existence is only broken by her regular attendance at church and the counting of the household linen on washday. If she goes to the Crystal Pulace she will stare vaguely at a Correggio and make quaint remarks when brought in contact with a chef-dicture. Her eyes will only sparkle as she sits in the buget, or droing room. Her circle of acquaintances will be among her class, and that class of society, like herself, sees no beauty in art, nor can appreciate true genius. This is the character of Mrs. Dickens—a truly goodnatured, loving, motherly woman. So long as Charles Blekens had to huffet against adversity, so This is the character of Mrs. Dickens—a truly goodnatured, loving, motherly woman. So long as
Charles Dickens had to buffet against adversity, so
long was he contented with his little wife. But as
soon as Charles Dickens began to be courted; as
soon as he found that he was on the road to immortality and fortune; as soon as he began to mix
in society and realized the extraordinary fascination of mixing among the higher ten, then Charles
Dickens for the first time looked down upon his
little wife, who could not do justice to the name of
her husband. There is no insanity in Mr.
Dickens, actions; but there is the paintil

reality of a man of genius realizing last that he has bound himself to a woman who is unable to add instre to his name or comfort to his life. It is useless to deny it, as many who have known bickens personally are well aware that he never invited any one to his house. The man's genius made him susceptible, and susceptibility made him fickie. He travelled over the man's genius made him susceptible, and susceptibility made him fickie. He travelled over the more of the forentine galieries or the marvellous treasures of the Louvre, and who, when introduced to abushed and wondering damsel, with at sympathy of appreciation. On the other and, had Charles Dickens beguing the man whom his admirers—especially Americans, one of the content o

The Great Novelist as a Son and a Father.

BROOKLYN, E. D., Feb. 28, 1874. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

However we may lament for "poor human nature," it is, I am sure, much better to treat the selfish or other detracting idiosyncrasies of great geniuses as you have treated the overshadowing frailty of Charles Dickens in your very masterly article in Sunday's HERALD than to explain away the responsibility of great minds, and, for the sake of keeping our human idols periect, misname their wickedness aberration of mind. If the accomplished apostle to the Gentiles thought it possible, as he admits, to preach to others and yet be himself a castaway, how foolish should we be to allow the teachings of a great genius to be marred by his own faulty practice, or his lovely works of imagination to be viewed through his own faulty conduct. You have fearlessly called a spade a spade, and I can corroborate your opinion of Dickens' self-tishness from two points of viewing his character—namely, as soon and as a father. I recollect some five and thirty years ago seeing the elder Dickens in an English provincial town, who was pointed out to me as the sire of "Boz" when "Pickwick" was coming out in monthly numbers, and I have every reason to know and to believe that Charles Dickens' conduct to his father, from whom he sketched the character of Micawber, was anything but the fulfilment of the fifth commandment. Dickens, Sr., was a very seedy-looking and commonplace individual—a superannuated, I think, excise officer, but at all events having done duty in some department of the government service—who would nave done an artist credit in a picture of "distraining for rent;" but he was nevertheless the parent of England's great and successful novelist, who certainly lailed to make him as comfortable in old age as his own means would permit timt to have done. Again, Charles Dickens had a son who was in the army and died in India, in connection with whom the following was told me a very lew years ago by a captain in the "Black Watch" (the Forty-second highlanders):—My friend, having known young Dickens intimately and been present at his death, had sent home the intelligence of it to his father. On returning from India he called upon Charles Dickens, thinking he might like to learn from him all the details of his son's last days; but to his surprise, found that he manilested not the least fatherly curriosity nor exhibited the slightest feeling in the matter or manner of his own son's death, had sent home tae intelligence of it to his father. On returning from India he called upon Charles Dickens, thinking he might like to learn from him all the details of his son's last days; but to his surprise, found that he manilested not the least fatherly curriosity nor his own faulty practice, or his lovely works of imagination to be viewed through his own faulty con-

LITERARY CHIT-CHAT.

THE NEW LIBRARY OF the City of Paris, intended to replace that which was unfortunately destroyed at the burning of the Hotel de Ville by the Communists, is open to the public. Although but a poor substitute for the splendid collection of 125,000 volumes which perished, the new library contains as many as 23,000 volumes or pamphiets and 15,000 engravings.

MR. HENRY H. GIBBS' new and privately printed book on the game of ombré is just ready. The writer has given a very good study of ombré, as described by Pope in the "Rape of the Lock." The modern game, as described by Mr. Gibbs, is more entertaining than that played by Belinda, having more variety and tun in it. DR. KARL MARK, the leader of the elder branch

of the International Association, is engaged in to draw a contrast between Charles Dickens' mes- translating his work on "Capitat," which has not A PARIS BOOKSELLER has just published a book

entitled "Mémoires de Chiselhurst," and M. Rouher has subscribed for 2,500 copies.

A LIFE OF THE GREAT German sculptor, Rauch, by Duncker, has appeared at Berlin. He was undoubtedly the first of modern portrait sculptors in

"THE ACADEMY" commends Commander Markham's "Whating Cruise to Baffin Bay," the latest addition to Arctic literature. It thinks that if a well organized naval expedition had reached the point where the Polaris was abandoned it would have discovered 4.000 miles of new coast the same

year. A BOOK IS ANNOUNCED on the birds of Switzerland by M. C. de Wallenstein. The author has been en-

gaged on this work since 1812. THE FIRST PORTION of Mr. J. Orchard (Halliwell) Phillipps' new "Life of Shakespeare" has gone to This book will contain the documents which throw so much fresh light on Shakesnearels connection with the theatres in which he was before supposed to have been a shareholder, when in fact he was not.

DR. H. HILDEBRAND, a learned German, has pub lished a work on the archwology and numismatics of Sweden.

THE FAMOUS MISS LONGWORTH, now advertising herself as Lady Avonmore, will again appear be fore the public as an author. She has in the press a volume of travels, entitled "Teressina Per-

MR. BAYARD TAYLOR, the translator of "Faust," is at present in Germany, collecting materials for

a joint biography of Goethe and Schiller. "THE BLACK BOOK OF THE ADMIRALTY" has been published in two volumes in the series o "Roll's Chronicles" of Great Britain. The work is a kind of encyclopædia of all things pertaining to the office of admiral in the British navy, and the manuscript of it having been lost for about a cen tury has only lately been recovered. It is edited by Sir Travers Twiss, and gives a connected view of the origin and growth of admiralty law.

A FINELY ILLUSTRATED WORK by the Rev. George J. Wood, entitled "Insects Abroad," is about to be

published by Messrs. Longman. A NEW BOOK OF TRAVELS, entitled "Through Russia, from St. Petersburg to Astrakan and the Crimea," by Mrs. Guthrie, in two volumes, with Illustrations, will shortly be issued in London.

LIEUTBNANT PARENT, who accompanied the late Swedish expedition to the Arctic regions, will shortly publish the results of his experience in the valuable Italian geographical journal, the Cosmos. THE CORRESPONDENCE of Dr. Channing with Lucy Aikin will shortly appear. Dr. Channing's portion of the letters is now published for the first

A Big Book on the maritime provinces of China by the British customs' officers at the different ports, will appear the present year at Shanghai. THE Speciator dismisses Dr. DeWitt Talmage's oddities and blunders with the statement that Dr. Talmage is a preacher who keeps his hearers always trembling on the verge of a laugh.

LORD LYTTON remarks in "The Parisians," "Six

well educated, clever girls, out of ten, keep a journal; not one well educated man in 10,000 does.' PROFESSOR MOMMSEN, who is a member of the

Prussian Parliament, has made a speech on the Royal Library at Beritu. He thinks it wholly in-adequate to the wants of the public, only 20,000 thalers a year being spent in the purchase of books, while six times as much is expended by the library of the British Museum.